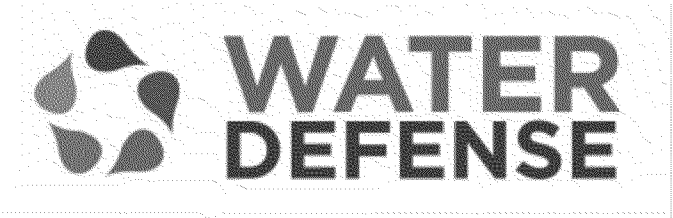


For Immediate Release: April 22, 2016
For more information: Sam Wright
(917) 306-8857
swright@waterdefense.org
www.waterdefense.org



Water Defense and Leading Construction Union Join Forces to Fight for Clean Water

April 22, 2016: (Annapolis, MD) – The issue of clean water for drinking, bathing, cooking, and showering and lack of standards is a matter of critical, national concern. The tragedy of Flint, MI, has shone a powerful spotlight on what happens when our supply of clean water is seriously compromised, and this crisis has brought to the forefront a systemic vulnerability that threatens the safety of cities and towns all across North America.

Water Defense and the United Association of Plumbers, Pipefitters, Sprinklerfitters and Service Technicians (UA) have joined together to focus attention on the water crisis in the United States today, and to determine what can be done to address this growing problem. Water Defense is a non-profit organization founded by actor Mark Ruffalo and dedicated to ensuring clean water for our citizens and to support the belief that access to safe water is a fundamental right. The UA is the leading organization of piping professionals in North America and has been providing the skilled workforce responsible for the installation of water treatment systems and plumbing for more than 125 years.

Mark McManus, General Secretary-Treasurer of the UA, stated, "Our partnership with Water Defense ensures that our members of 343,000 strong and growing will have access to the best available water testing technology which enables us to better protect the communities we serve, detect problems before they become irreversible, and work in a collaborative way with Water Defense for solutions."

Scott Smith, Chief Technology Officer and Investigator of Water Defense, stated, "Our partnership with the UA ensures that all communities will have immediate and scalable access to the best available and most comprehensive water testing technology. Furthermore, with this partnership we will be able to deliver solutions via the UA and work to prevent future Flint disasters. We are humbled and honored to be working side by side on the ground in Flint with the UA and directly with the Flint community. We will never forget the lessons learned from Flint and

the inspiration from great community leaders of Flint that are setting the new standards for uniting a community to protect itself.”

Both Water Defense and the UA have been deeply involved in providing relief and assistance to the citizens of Flint, MI. The water crisis in Flint started when officials began drawing water from a different source than previously relied on, which later caused the presence of high lead levels and other chemicals of concern in the water used by city residents for drinking, showering, bathing and cooking.

The partnership between Water Defense and the UA will keep the focus on the need to ensure the integrity and safety of America’s water infrastructure, even as the two organizations continue to provide support to Flint residents. The struggle to protect our vulnerable water systems is just beginning, but these two organizations bring individuals’ strengths to the fight that will have a major impact in the months and years to come.

###

About Water Defense: Water Defense is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to clean water, rooted in the belief that access to clean water is a fundamental human right. Water Defense’s mission is to use technology and public engagement to inform people about what is in their water, hold water polluters accountable, and keep America’s waterways and drinking water sources free from contamination and industrial degradation.

About the UA: Founded in 1889, the United Association of Union Plumbers, Pipefitters, Sprinklerfitters, Welders and HVAC Technicians (UA) is a multi-craft union whose members are engaged in the fabrication, installation and servicing of piping systems. There are over 410,000 members affiliated with the UA throughout North America, Australia, and Ireland, including over 340,000 UA members belonging to more than 300 local unions in the United States and Canada.